

Statement by

Mr. D. Robert Smego

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Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee

House Energy and Commerce Committee

United States House of Representatives

2123 Rayburn House Office Building

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Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. My name is D. Robert Smego. I was retained by the House Energy and Commerce Committee earlier this year to review, identify and translate documents it provided to me. I am a linguist knowledgeable in the Arabic language.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee's Majority Counsel asked me to identify by topic and translate documents regarding Oil-For-Food, in particular Iraqi State Oil Marketing Organization documents that had been scanned onto DVDs and memoranda prepared by the Iraqi Intelligence Service. With the assistance of a native Iraqi linguist, I translated 49 documents from more than 23,000 pages that I reviewed for this Committee.

The translated documents presented today accurately reflect the original text. I have not corrected the English translations of grammatical errors, such as run-on sentences, indefinite pronouns, and sentence fragments that result from the melodious flow and verbose nature of Arabic. I avoided summarizing, paraphrasing, or making analytic substitutions for the original language. Any redactions in the original documents were maintained in the translations.

I was asked to translate and interpret specific documents. I was not tasked to perform any broader analysis or to develop a professional judgment about the broader context of

these documents. The guidance of the Majority Counsel was to sift through large volumes of material looking for references to particular topics and to translate the documents selected by the Majority Counsel for presentation to the Committee. The documents presented here today provide useful insight into the activities of the former Iraqi regime.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This concludes my opening statement. I am pleased to appear before this Subcommittee and will be glad to address questions within the scope of the work I performed for the Committee.